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"The Birth of Jesus," by Rev. H. A. Miles, just ready at Lockwood, Brooks & Co.'s, would be a good holiday gift to a rationalist. It is heterodox, but entirely reverent; thoughtful, suggestive, and very well worth reading by any one who is not afraid to see what can be said on the other side.

HARPER & BROTHERS, by vigorous enterprise, have succeeded in pushing through a second and larger edition of Prime's "Pottery and Porcelain" in time for holiday trade. The immediate success of this book, exhausting the first edition at once, is the more remarkable in view of the large number of publications this season, on this or similar subjects.

DODD, MEAD & Co. have had remarkable success with their Lubke's "History of Art," of which the second volume is now ready, just in the nick of time. The edition is almost entirely exhausted by wholesale orders, and those who have occasion to order copies must do so in a hurry. The second volume is much larger than the first, and contains special chapters and many plates found in neither the German nor English editions.

THE last two publications of G. P. Putnam's Sons, for the year 1877, will be the third volume of their "Select British Essayists," comprising "The Tatler," "Guardian," and "Freeholder," and Mr. Frothingham's "Life of Gerrit Smith." This last possesses special interest as the biography of a man of exceptional originality of character, and of an active philanthropic life, and also as throwing light on the history of the anti-slavery movement. It contains some valuable correspondence of the anti-slavery leaders, including some previously unpublished letters of Charles Sumner. A fine portrait of Gerrit Smith has been engraved for the book by Bannister, and it contains also some further illustrations on wood.

THE most important work on Ireland and its interests issued in many years, "Sullivan's New Ireland," is just published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., to meet the demand, in a new and cheap edition, price \$1. It throws a great deal of light on Fenianism, and on that Irish party in Parliament to which Mr. Sullivan belongs, and is therefore of great value to all intelligent Irishmen, and not less so to the many Americans who have sympathized with the Irish in their struggle with the English rule. "The Ladye Chase," is the title of a little volume by Bishop A. C. Coxe, author of "Thoughts on the Service," "Impressions of England," etc., now republished as entirely revised by the author.

LEE & SHEPARD have now ready the long-announced book, "The Simple Truth," by Rev. Robert Collyer, intended primarily, as a gift by a clergyman to the happy couples he marries, to help them keep happy and grow happier. Everybody who knows Mr. Collyer will readily imagine how hearty, manly, and helpful a book it must be. They also have ready "Princess Eve," said to be an engaging story, translated from the German of Clementine Helm by Rosa Sachs, and equipped with good illustrations; and the speech that Senator Sumner prepared describing his "Personal Relations with the President and Secretary of State,"—a speech which he never delivered, and which may very properly be printed now, when, as his friends believe, he is very unjustly criticised and purposely misrepresented.

J. R. OSGOOD & Co. publish this week C. C. Perkins' admirable volume on "Raphael and Michael-Angelo," of which we spoke last week; a duodecimo edition of "Child-Life in Pictures," twenty-four Heliotype engravings of Pictures by Reynolds, Greuze, Eddis, Landseer, and others; Col. Waring's travel sketches in eastern France, "The Bride of the Rhine; or, Two Hundred Miles in a Row Boat on the Moselle," charming in description and beautiful with abundant pictures; "Manners and Customs of Ye Harvard Student," a series of cartoons by Francis Gilbert Attwood, representing, with some caricature and a deal of underlying truth, the less studious and quiet life and habits of some of the blithe young men at Cambridge—not a coarse book, but a humorous and enjoyable one; and, as the new volume of the English and Foreign Philosophical Library "Outlines of the History of Religion to the Supremacy of the Universal Religions," a thoughtful and important work by Prof. C. P. Tiele, of Holland, translated by J. Estlin Carpenter.

WEEKLY RECORD OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

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SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY, by an oversight that will occur in these days of an infinity of literature, has been swindled into printing in its January number, and paying for, a poem of Sydney Dobell's. In relation to the matter, Dr. Holland writes to the *Tribune*:

To the Editor of the *Tribune*.

SIR: Will you kindly assist me to give a little notoriety to Mr. H. S. Kellogg, the pretended author of "The Song of the Milkmaid," published in *Scribner's Monthly* for January. A correspondent has kindly informed me that the poem is stolen from Sydney Dobell, and I have verified the information by referring to Dobell's poems.

Mr. Kellogg's city address, as recorded upon the manuscript of the poem, is 425 West Twenty-first Street. Under this address, I find in pencil: "Watkins, Schuyler Co., N. Y." Now, as Mr. Kellogg only consented to take the modest sum of five dollars for his work, he could hardly have been driven to his wretched job by want. It must have been notoriety that he was after; so I beg you to post him, on my personal responsibility, for the benefit of the editorial craft, as a literary thief and swindler.

J. G. HOLLAND.

NEW YORK, Nov. 18, 1877.

This is nowadays a frequent danger; for it is practically impossible for any one, or two or three men to be acquainted with every poem in the language. A similar blunder happened in the early days of *Harper's Magazine*, then partly eclectic, when Henry J. Raymond, its first editor, re-printed from an English magazine a considerable article which had originally appeared in *Putnam's*. A leading Chicago daily

once paid for and printed an editorial article taken bodily from the *New York Tribune*. The *Commercial Advertiser* caps the climax of the present blunder by observing that somebody has swindled the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table."

JOURNALISTIC NOTES.

A. D. F. RANDOLPH & Co. have issued a fresh number of their neat periodical record of current literature, *The Index*. They have bound it up with their imprint edition of the CHRISTMAS WEEKLY, for distribution—making a doubly valuable combination. In this connection we should acknowledge the very handsome prefatory card inserted by them in their imprint edition:

"Messrs. A. D. F. Randolph & Co., in transmitting a copy of this Christmas Catalogue, desire to say that it was prepared and published by Mr. F. Leypoldt, of the *Publishers' Weekly*, to whom all the credit is due for this sumptuous manual of the books of the year.

Messrs. Randolph & Co. have simply purchased an edition of it for distribution, as a partial list of the books in their own establishment."

This is all the more handsome, because it was entirely uncalled for.

We have received from the "Cercle de la Librairie," Paris, the handsome Christmas *feuilleton* of the *Journal*, devoted to "Livres d'Etrennes pour l'Année 1877" (gift-books for 1878). It is a large volume of 280 pages, consisting exclusively of the advertising announcements, illustrated and otherwise, of French publishers.

The Publishers' Weekly.

DECEMBER 22, 1877.

PUBLISHERS are requested to furnish title-page proofs and advance information of books forthcoming, both for entry in the lists and for descriptive mention. An early copy of each book published should be forwarded, to insure correctness in the final entry.

The trade are invited to send "Communications" to the editor on any topic of interest to the trade, and as to which an interchange of opinion is desirable. Also, matter for "Notes and Queries." Notes from librarians will also be gratefully received.

In case of business changes, notification or card should be immediately sent to this office for entry under "Business Notes." New catalogues issued will also be mentioned when forwarded.

"Every man is a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men do of course seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves by way of amends to be a help thereunto."—LORD BACON.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

THE passage of the Paris Exposition bill, with an appropriation and with provision for government transportation, and the appointment of Gov. McCormic as Commissioner in chief, have made a creditable display on the part of America reasonably probable. An office will soon be opened in New York, in the Post Office building, for the entry of exhibits and the apportionment of space, and it is to be hoped that the book trade will at once put itself in a position to obtain sufficient room for a representative exhibit. In this rush of Christmas business, little attention can be expected to anything else; but some immediate action is desirable, and we call the attention of publishers to the advisability of authorizing Mr. E. Terquem of Paris, who represented the French trade so acceptably at Philadelphia, to secure space for their share of an American book exhibit. In consultation with Mr. Jno. R. Eliot, of Philadelphia, who has taken commendable and unselfish interest in this matter, Mr. Terquem has drawn up a plan for representation, the terms of which are embodied in the heading of a paper in which he is asking publishers to enter their applications for space:

Collective Exhibit of American Publishers: price \$15 per square foot of books arranged upon the shelves, which includes all charges, as follows: carriage to and from Havre to Paris; catalogue, show-cases, care, and attendance—before, during, and after the Exhibition—repacking, re-shipping, and freight to America. Also for placing the books in best manner before the jury, obtaining and forwarding awarded diplomas and medals. To include all cost and charges from the time the books leave the United States until they again reach the United States.

This seems to us the most satisfactory plan, and it is certainly moderate in its demands. To insure its fulfilment, Mr. Terquem should obtain guarantees for 200 square feet of shelving—making the total amount \$3000—and there should certainly be no difficulty about this. Mr. Terquem will call upon publishers, with explanations, designs for cases, etc., or can be found at 23 Union Square, room 10, or addressed at this office; and we bespeak for him a favorable reception of his plan. Especially in educational works, and in the art books published this very season, the American trade should take pride in showing Europe what standard our country has already reached.

WE present in this issue several letters from leading publishers on the pending postal question. Those of Messrs. Lippincott and Houghton were prepared in view of the first draft of the new bill, since much modified; but most of the points made still hold. The Lippincott letter calls attention to a number of abuses not remedied in the several changes, and Mr. Houghton's makes a strong case against the proposed centralization of a most important power; but the remedy is to be found only in abolishing the power, since the effects of leaving the question to local postmasters have already been shown in conflicting decisions, which admitted a publication to the mails at one office, and excluded an exactly similar journal at another. Good points are made against the new bill in the other two letters, written in view of the bill as it is actually before Congress. We cannot but agree with the Philadelphia publisher in his dissent from Mr. Bissell's views; and, as Messrs. Clarke point out, the business interest cannot afford to have new legislation which presents in advance ambiguities that must be "construed."

COMMUNICATIONS.

CRITICISMS ON THE POSTAL BILL.

MESSRS. J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO. send us, as expressing their views on the postal bill, a copy of their letter to Postmaster-General Key:

PHILADELPHIA, OCT. 26, 1877.
POSTMASTER-GENERAL KEY,

Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: We are in receipt of the circular from the Post-Office Department, dated October 22d, and, being specially interested in any change from the arbitrary rulings now in force respecting periodical matter, have given it careful study.

We may not have construed the circular correctly, but we would frankly state that we see no advantage to the publisher in the proposed changes. The amendment allowing us to affix our name on each parcel is accompanied with a

tax (trifling it is true) and a condition that each parcel must be marked as "privileged" matter, which entails an expense and trouble more than commensurate with the advantage. In fact, it seems to us that, for the convenience of the Department in tracing lost matter, it would be advantageous to encourage the use of wrappers bearing the name and address of the sender. If it be that, under this "privileged" rule, publishers will be allowed to use their own judgment as to how they shall insert advertisements in their own journals, we admit at once that it is an improvement.

Then there is a condition that the periodicals "must be printed and published in the United States." We are special agents for several magazines issued in England, which are sent to us in bulk and distributed through the mail from our office, and the new rule would certainly operate seriously against us in that relation.

We take the liberty of here remarking that every change in the postal regulations for some years past has been to the disadvantage of the publisher. Enumerating a few of these, we would mention: First, the recent ruling respecting the advertising pages and inserts of magazines, etc. Secondly, the fact that, some years since, periodicals were allowed to exchange free, while the publishers are now obliged to pay the usual rate on all exchanges. Thirdly, that, at this same previous time, the postage on periodicals sent to subscribers and dealers was collected of the recipient, and the publisher is obliged to prepay the postage to both, thus concentrating the tax on the few, while formerly it was divided among the many—and a publisher cannot well add the cost of postage to the price of his periodical. Fourthly, can any thing be more unreasonable than the charge of letter postage on manuscripts sent to periodicals, while book manuscripts are subject to third-class rates?

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co.

THE RIVERSIDE PRESS,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Dec. 1, 1877.

To the Editor of the Publishers' Weekly:

I have not given much attention to the new postal act. I am glad to see an evidence on the part of the Department to secure criticism, and my experience with the Post-Office Department has impressed upon me the fact that its managers are very earnest in their efforts to simplify its working and to secure the utmost efficiency.

There are two points in the proposed bill that seem to me susceptible of criticism:

I. The requirement, in Sec. 7, that the license for registration shall be procured at Washington. This puts in the hands virtually of a single individual, with limited means of information, the decision that affects large interests, and if there should be opposition to a license, as there might often be, from interested motives, the expense of sending witnesses and counsel to Washington would necessarily be very great, and the unprincipled men of means, in contested cases, would carry the day. It seems to me that the question whether a license should issue could be much better decided by the postmaster of the city or town where the publication is mailed, under regulations prescribed by the Postmaster-General. The postmasters in the

cities are or should be men of character and ability, and they would be much more likely to know the character of the work offered for license than a clerk at Washington. In cases of special difficulty, there might be opportunity for appeal to Washington.

II. It seems to me that the third clause of the 11th section is not definite enough. A clerk or postmaster who was confined literally to the language, would be likely to rule out all such publications as yours and our medical and law publications as not being connected *mainly* with public news; and it would be manifestly a very unjust ruling.

In haste, yours very truly,

H. O. HOUGHTON.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 14, 1877.

To the Editor of the Publishers' Weekly:

THE new Postal Act, as published in the WEEKLY of 8th inst., changes the law as to privileged rates on second-class matter very materially, perhaps intentionally so, perhaps not.

Under the present Act, news agents, throughout the country, send through the mails at privileged rates, papers and magazines, wherever printed, to their regular subscribers.

As we understand this new Act, all news agents *outside of the place of publication* will be deprived of this privilege, and it will be accorded only to publishers and news agents residing in the same city.

We make this inference from the language of Sec. 6. After the publication has been approved by the Postmaster General, "a certificate of registration shall thereupon be issued to the postmaster at the place where such publication is published. . . . This certificate of registration shall entitle the publication to which it is issued, when sent from the office of publication or a news agency, to be transmitted through the mails at the following rates," etc.

Suppose *Harper's Magazine* is so registered, and the certificate of registration is on file at the New York Post-office, Messrs. Harper & Bros., and any news agent in that city, can send the *Magazine* through the mails at the privileged rates, while news agents at Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, or any other place cannot, because the postmasters at these places have no certificate of registration for that magazine. The Act distinctly says that "*This certificate of registration shall entitle, etc.,*" not, the *fact* of registration as printed on the cover of the magazine, but the certificate which is in the hands of one postmaster; so all news agents at other points must pay full rates on all registered publications not printed in the cities where they are respectively located.

The question arises, Is it the intention of the Act to thus discriminate in favor of news agents in the place of publication and against all others? It may be a mere oversight. If so, it can be remedied by changing the language of the Act, so that all *registered* publications shall be entitled to the privileged rates wherever they are mailed by news agents to regular subscribers. The fines imposed by the Department for the use of the words, "Registered at privileged rates," by publications not so registered, should be large enough to give ample protection against the fraudulent use of the words.

The passage of the Act in its present shape would render a "decision" on this point necessary at the outset. It would be better to amend the Act now before its passage.

ROBERT CLARKE & Co.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18, 1877.

To the Editor of the *Publisher's Weekly*:

SIR: In the WEEKLY of Dec. 15th, I observe a communication from Mr. Bissell, in which he claims for his new postage bill that, in place of conferring power on the Postmaster General, "it limits and defines the power which the 15th section of the Act of July 12th, 1876, gives him." A reference to that Act will show that the section in question, in terms, confers no power on any one; but merely defines what periodicals shall be subjected to the ounce rate—everything else being presumed to enjoy the privilege of the pound rate. Mr. Bissell's bill, on the contrary, presumes that nothing is entitled to pound rates until after the Department shall have taken absolute action in its favor. In the one case we are presumed to be innocent until our guilt is proved; in the other we are presumed to be guilty and have to prove our innocence. The difference between these conditions is enormous, and invites the abuses to which I referred in a former communication as among the possibilities of the future.

If, in the apparently innocent words of the section referred to in the Act of July, 1876, there lurks the power which has enabled the Department to play such pranks with the periodical business during the last six months, what have we to look forward to when every journal will have to be individually passed upon by an official from whose decision there is practically no appeal, and who will hold its destinies in his hands without being called upon to account to any one for his actions or his motives? Where, for instance, is there in that section anything to justify the recent rulings which forbid the immemorial custom of "inserts," or which require advertisements to be paged consecutively and to be evidently printed in the same office as the text? Yet the Department has arrogated to itself the right to assert these regulations, and all the periodicals of the land have been forced to adapt themselves to these novel restrictions, while Canadian journals have had the full privileges of our mails without being thus fettered, because, I presume, the Dominion Post-office has the common sense to see that there is no advantage to be gained by any one in interfering with the business of its country. I do not understand that Mr. Bissell's bill makes any concessions on these points, but on the other hand it compels all periodicals to pass in review before the gentlemen whose perverse ingenuity, already abundantly exemplified by recent exploits, is to be exercised in defining new refinements for restricting our business.

I had hoped that when the subject of periodical postage should again come before Congress, the absurd distinction between weekly journals and those published less frequently would be abrogated. It would puzzle even the ingenuity of the oldest employé of the Department to give a logical reason why a weekly journal should be carried at two cents a pound while a fortnightly one is charged three cents.

All reasons point to a directly opposite conclusion, and I regret that Mr. Bissell should have lost the opportunity of doing away with this perfectly indefensible discrimination.

Both for what it contains and what it omits, Mr. Bissell's bill should be defeated. It easily can be if the periodicals of the country will use their influence with members of Congress; and this I hope they will lose no time in doing.

Very respectfully, PUBLISHER.

THE WICKED PROOF-READER.

OUR contemporary, the *Publishers' Weekly*, does not often afford us an occasion for a joke, but in its reprint of the announcement of the underselling bookseller who has hung out his sign in Minneapolis, the wicked compositor made him say that he proposed "to sell a new, clean stock at prices that everybody can afford to but at." If all accounts are true, the other dealers of that section are butting at them with a vengeance.—*American Bookseller*.

"GOLDOM," for Goldoni, is a sad blunder for an intelligent proof-reader to pass; yet it disfigures the pages of the *American Bookseller*, which treats us also to "Archairia" for "Archaiia."—*Watchman*.

We own up. Call a truce, brother *Bookseller*!

LITERARY AND TRADE NOTES.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT will have ready early in January, "Too Rich," translated from the German by Mrs. A. L. Wister, the well-known translator of Marlitt's, Mühlbach's and other popular German authors' novels.

THE "Original Mother Goose Melodies" published by Lee & Shepard have become quite popular, owing no doubt to the happy illustrations by J. F. Goodridge, as well as to the neat get-up of the book.

J. MURPHY & Co. are now printing the thirty-fifth thousand of Gibbon's "Faith of our Fathers," which is stated to have sold more extensively than any other Catholic book published within the last twelve months.

WE have received from F. W. Christern, New York, an elegant Weihnachts-Catalog (Christmas Catalogue) of books he has in stock and is importing. The catalogue is a remarkable piece of typographical work, especially in the setting of the advertising pages.

THE sale of the three handsome war-country books of Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. is much quickened by the demand for them by holiday purchasers. Separately, or together, Wallace's Russia, Baker's Turkey, and McCoan's Egypt, make capital gifts.

DAVIS, BARDEEN & Co. inform the trade that the first edition of De Graff's "School Room Guide" was entirely exhausted by advance orders before it was received from the bindery, and that they are therefore unable, at present, to fill any order. A new edition will be ready about February 1st, containing 419 pages, at \$1.50.

J. L. SIBOLE's last venture, "The Gathering of the Lilies," has met with great success. Within the short time of sixty days, the first edition of three thousand copies has been disposed of, and the second edition is now

under way. "Violet with Eyes of Blue," by the same author, and published last year, prepared the market for the new volume; consequently, its coming was eagerly looked for

and at once taken advantage of, much to the satisfaction of publisher and author. Both are to be congratulated on the marked success of their venture.

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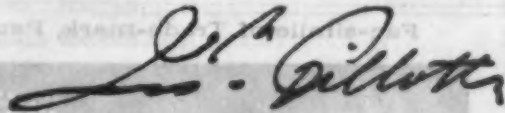
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